

REMARKS

This is a divisional application of Application No. 09/199,344 filed November 25, 1998 (the "'344 Application'"), which is a divisional of Application No. 08/552,932 filed November 3, 1995 (the "'932 Application'"), U.S. Patent No. 5,944,930.

**NOTE:** A Petition for Extension of Time for an additional one-month period for response is being filed concurrently herewith in the '344 Application to extend the time for response to the outstanding Official Action therein, to August 27, 2001, and thereby maintaining the pendency of that application and establishing copendency of the above-identified divisional application with the '344 Application. A signed, duplicate copy of that Petition for Extension of Time is enclosed herewith.

Claim 69 is pending in the application. Claims 1 through 68 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 69 has been added and corresponds to Claim 70 (as correctly renumbered by the Examiner) which was added in an Amendment Filed March 21, 2001, in the '344 Application. Claim 69 is the only independent claim.

A copy of a Petition for Extension of Time, which is being filed concurrently herewith in the '344 Application, is enclosed. The specification has been amended to include the amendments made in a Preliminary Amendment, filed November 25, 1998, in the '344 Application. A new title and an Abstract has been provided to more clearly conform to the claim on file. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

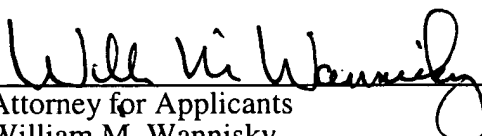
Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based upon Japanese Priority Application Nos. 6-273615, filed November 8, 1994, and 7-271079, filed October 19, 1995, and respectfully request acknowledgment of this claim and of receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents, which were filed April 8, 1996, in the '932 Application.

Favorable consideration hereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO SPECIFICATION

A new paragraph has been added to page 1 before line 1.

This is a divisional application of Application No. 09/199,344 filed November 25, 1998, which is a divisional application of Application No. 08/552,932, filed on November 3, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,944,930.

The paragraph starting at page 21, line 24 has been amended as follows.

The heating conditions in the heating oven 60 were that the heating temperature was  $370 \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the heating time was  $30 \pm 1$  min. The heating time was determined by taking account of the melt temperature (melting point) of the film material and the heat deterioration of the film. During the heating step in the heating oven 60, the film 4 changed as shown in Figs. 6 to 8. First, the film 4 placed in the heating oven 60 was wound in the gap between the columnar member 1, as a core, and the tubular molding member 2, and the two ends 4a and 4b formed the overlapping portion. The dimensional gap between the outer diameter of the columnar member 1 and the inner diameter of the tubular molding member 2 was  $200\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ . The columnar member 1, the film 4, and the tubular molding member 2 were heated from this state, and the temperatures of these members rose. The columnar member 1 and the tubular molding member 2 began expanding in accordance with the respective thermal expansion coefficients (Fig. 6). The film 4 started softening as the temperature rose, and the columnar member 1 and the tubular molding member 2 started expanding with the temperature rise. [Since, however,] However, since the thermal expansion coefficient of the aluminum material of the columnar member 1 was larger than the thermal expansion coefficient of the tubular

molding member 2, the dimensional gap between the outer diameter of the columnar member 1 and the inner diameter of the tubular molding member 2 was narrowed from that in the initial low-temperature state (Fig. 7).

The paragraph starting at page 36, line 23 has been amended as follows.

The first sheet film 28 was wound double on an outer circumferential surface 26a of the columnar member 26 such that two ends 28a and 28b of the film overlapped each other. Subsequently, the second sheet film 32 was wound double on the first sheet film 28 such that two ends 32a and 32b of the film 32 overlapped each other. Double-winding of this embodiment has the merit of being able to form a tubular film with an arbitrary thickness independently of the thicknesses of the sheet films. Additionally, when [not] a 50- $\mu\text{m}$  thick film is not used but a film having a half thickness, i.e., a thickness of 25  $\mu\text{m}$  is used as the sheet film, the thickness of the overlapping portion of the two ends of the film becomes small, so it is possible to manufacture a film having a high uniformity in the overall film thickness.

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FIG. 10

